

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-11 FRB-02 INR-10 IO-12 NEA-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

OPIC-12 TRSE-00 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 SAL-01 OMB-01

INT-08 SS-15 NSC-10 NSF-04 SCEM-02 INRE-00 RSR-01

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FM USMISSION OECD PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9257

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

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AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

UNCLAS OECD PARIS 9449

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: ENRG, OECD

SUBJECT: MEETING OF GENERAL WORKING PARTY OF ENERGY COMMITTEE
(GWP), MARCH 22, 1973

REF: STATE 52143

1. SUMMARY: GWP FOUND ENERGY DIRECTORATE'S PRELIMINARY WORK PLAN FOR OECD LONG- TERM ENERGY STUDY GENERALLY ACCEPTABLE, BUT AGREED THAT IT SHOULD BE REGARDED ONLY AS A TOOL FOR POSSIBLE USE BY HIGH- LEVEL CONSULTANT. MEETINGS OF AD HOC WORKING PARTIES ON COAL, NATURAL GAS AND ELECTRICITY POSTPONED UNTIL MAY. ACTION REQUESTED: SEE PARAS 5 AND 6 BELOW. END SUMMARY.

2. LONG- TERM ENERGY STUDY. GWP DEVOTED MOST OF ITS ATTENTION TO REVIEW OF PRELIMINARY WORK PLAN FOR OECD LONG- TERM ENERGY STUDY WHICH HAD BEEN DRAWN UP BY SECRETARIAT. (SEE OECD DOCUMENT DIE/ E/ EN/73.20). PLAN WAS GENERALLY UNCLASSIFIED

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ACCEPTABLE TO DELEGATES, THOUGH US, CANADA, JAPAN, UK AND SOME OTHERS EXPRESSED STRONG VIEW THAT MORE DETAILED AND AUTHORITATIVE VERSION MUST BE DEVELOPED BY HIGH- LEVEL CONSULTANT IN CONJUNCTION WITH CENTRAL TEAM DRAWN FROM VARIOUS DIRECTORATES. WHILE APPLAUDING INITIATIVE OF ENERGY DIRECTORATE, THESE DELEGATES DOUBTED WISDOM OF EXTENSIVE EFFORTS BY GWP TO REFINE DRAFT PLAN ANY FURTHER. DELEGATES WERE ULTIMATELY INVITED TO SUBMIT WRITTEN COMMENTS ON THE PRELIMINARY WORK PLAN TO THE SECRETARIAT. WORK PLAN AND COMMENTS WILL BE SUBMITTED TO HIGH- LEVEL CONSULTANT WITH COVERING NOTE WHICH WILL MAKE IT CLEAR THAT THEY ARE TO BE USED AS HE SEES FIT AND ARE NOT TO BE CONSIDERED BINDING EXPRESSION OF GOVERNMENTS' VIEWS.

3. IN DISCUSSION OF SUBSTANCE OF WORK PLAN, CANADA INSISTED THAT DEVELOPMENT OF MEANINGFUL ENERGY SUPPLY AND DEMAND FORECASTS REQUIRES EXPLICIT ASSUMPTIONS ABOUT PRICE LEVELS AND ELASTICITIES. THIS POSITION RECEIVED WIDESPREAD SUPPORT FROM OTHER DELEGATIONS, THOUGH DIFFICULTIES INVOLVED CLEARLY RECOGNIZED. UK EXPRESSED VIEW THAT LONG- TERM ENERGY STUDY SHOULD BE A RATHER CRISP DOCUMENT WHICH CONCENTRATES ONLY ON KEY ISSUES. MANY DELEGATES STRESSED NEED TO AVOID DUPLICATION OF EFFORT, FOR EXAMPLE BY MAKING FULL USE OF ALREADY AVAILABLE ANALYSES OF WORLD ENERGY SUPPLY AND DEMAND.

4. ALSO ON GWP AGENDA WAS DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED AD HOC WORKING PARTIES ON NATURAL GAS, ELECTRICITY AND COAL, WHICH WILL PREPARE CONTRIBUTIONS TO LONG- TERM ENERGY STUDY. SECRETARIAT SUGGESTED INITIAL MEETINGS, WHICH IT HAD CONVENED FOR EARLY APRIL, COULD BE OCCASION FOR DELEGATES TO EXPRESS THEIR GENERAL VIEWS, TO REVIEW DRAFT MANDATES AND DRAFT REPORT OUTLINES, AND TO BEGIN GATHERING BASIC DATA. US, CANADA, JAPAN, AND UK VOICED CONCERN THAT SECRETARIAT WAS MOVING TOO QUICKLY IN ABSENCE OF EITHER HIGH- LEVEL CONSULTANT OR AGREED, DETAILED WORK PLAN, WHICH CARRIED DANGER OF UNNECESSARY OR MISDIRECTED EFFORT. IN LIGHT OF THESE VIEWS, GWP AGREED TO POSTPONE INITIAL MEETINGS OF AD HOC WORKING PARTIES UNTIL EARLY MAY.

5. ENERGY FORECASTS. GWP AGREED GENERALLY WITH SECRETARIAT PROPOSALS FOR EXTENDING ENERGY COMMITTEE SUPPLY AND
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DEMAND FORECASTS TO 1985 AND BEYOND (SEE OECD DOCUMENT

DIE/ E/ EN/73.08). IN LINE WITH THESE PROPOSALS, MEMBER COUNTRIES WERE REQUESTED TO SUBMIT TO SECRETARIAT BEFORE END OF MAY ANY AVAILABLE NATIONAL FORECASTS OF ENERGY SUPPLY AND DEMAND UP TO 1985.

6. RATIONAL USE OF ENERGY IN SPACE HEATING. MEMBERS WERE INVITED TO SUBMIT TO SECRETARIAT BY APRIL 16 WRITTEN COMMENTS ON REVISED QUESTIONNAIRE ON THIS SUBJECT (DIE/ E/ EN/72.147, 1 ST REV.)

7. ENERGY PRICE STATISTICS. CANADIAN DELEGATION RECALLED ITS REQUEST THAT SECRETARIAT PREPARE WRITTEN STATEMENT DEMONSTRATING VALUE OF IMPROVED ENERGY PRICE STATISTICS FROM NORTH AMERICA FOR INCLUSION IN ANNUAL REVIEW OF ENERGY PRICE STATISTICS. IT WAS AGREED THAT AFTER CIRCULATION OF APPROPRIATE PAPER SECRETARIAT WOULD CONSULT WITH US AND CANADIAN DELEGATIONS TO DETERMINE WHETHER IT IS WORTHWHILE TO AMEND THE ANNUAL QUESTIONNAIRE, AND IF SO, IN WHAT MANNER THIS MIGHT BEST BE DONE.

8. FUTURE MEETING. GWP AGREED ON JUNE 13-15 AS DATES FOR NEXT MEETING OF ENERGY COMMITTEE.

9. COMMENT: OUTCOME OF MEETING BASICALLY SATISFACTORY TO US DELEGATION WHICH, TOGETHER WITH LIKE- MINDED DELEGATIONS, WAS ABLE TO ESTABLISH MORE SATISFACTORY BALANCE BETWEEN NEED TO MOVE FORWARD WITH LONG- TERM ENERGY STUDY AND NEED TO ASSURE INTEGRATED APPROACH WITH MINIMUM OF WASTED EFFORT. BROWN

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